

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A protein selected from (a) to (d):
 - (a) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1;
 - (b) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein one or more amino acids have been modified by deletion, substitution, addition, and/or insertion;
 - (c) a protein comprising a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions with a polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2; and
 - (d) a protein comprising an amino acid sequence having 60% homology to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.
2. (Original) A polynucleotide encoding the protein of claim 1 or a portion thereof.
3. (Original) The polynucleotide of claim 2, which comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.
4. (Original) A pharmaceutical comprising the protein of claim 1.
5. (Original) The pharmaceutical of claim 4, which is used to prevent, improve, or treat cardiac failure, cardiomegaly, myocarditis, cardiomyopathy, arteriosclerosis, arteriosclerosis obliterans, or ischemic heart disease.
6. (Original) A pharmaceutical comprising the polynucleotide of claim 2.
7. (Original) The pharmaceutical of claim 6, which is used to prevent, improve, or treat cardiac failure, cardiomegaly, myocarditis, cardiomyopathy, arteriosclerosis, arteriosclerosis obliterans, or ischemic heart disease.